

Andrew Jackson to Anthony Butler, October 7, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER.1

1 Univ. of Texas, Butler Papers.

Private

Washington, October 7, 1830.

My D'r Sir, Just as I closing my letter of the 6th inst, your of the 8th of July last was handed me, thro. Mr. Bankhead Secretary of the British Legation here, to whom Mr. Buchan had forwarded it from Baltimore, and of course I have not had the pleasure of seeing him personally, but when I do, I shall extend to him that kindness and hospitality due to him as a gentleman, and your friend. I rejoice that you are progressing with a commercial Treaty, and I trust with a Treaty of boundary, and if President Bustamente, practices that frankness which he has professed to me in his letter, of copy of which I enclose, you cannot have much difficulty in the negotiation. In my reply you will find I have met him with the frankness of a soldier and hinted to him as a reason why you were selected, that you were a soldier and appreciated the character and would in all your acts with that Republic, use that frankness necessary and proper to produce and foster the prosperity and happiness of both, and a lasting harmony, peace and good will between our respective Republics: And you may with all the frankness of a *soldier* urge the policy of adopting the Grand Prarie, as a permanent boundary between us, as a source of lasting peace and harmony, for I say to you confidentially, whenever the present boundary is run and our western Citizens find the imposition that has been practised upon them, no power can

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restrain them, and they will be sufficiently numerous to declare themselves independent and maintain it. There will be one county of Arkansas thickly populated, cut off by the line, as is now contended for. Our future peace with Mexico depends upon extending our boundary farther west, And if you cannot get it to the grand prairie obtain to the *Brasos* or another point giving for it in proportion to the extent, in equal ratio to the amount, authorized by your instructions.

But candour dictates that the fact should be disclosed that the Government possessing the Mississippi must at some day possess all its *tributary streams*.

Therefore the grand prairie including this would be a boundary that would give permanent peace to the two Republics: Our right by the Louisiana Treaty, being once complete to all this boundary and more. The citizens of the U States will never be contented untill this boundary is acquired, when they become informed it was wantonly given away to keep down the prosperity and growing political influence of the west. These hints will bring to your view the importance of obtaining this boundary as the future peace and harmony of the two Republics mainly depend upon it. Therefore your best exertions are expected, and I have no doubt will be used in this negotiation to obtain both the important objects entrusted to you, at as early a day as possible. Should you succeed you lay a sure bases for the peace and prosperity of the two Republics, and sweep from Texas the means of revolution that must disturb Mexico at some future day, the strength of our government being able to govern that, when added to our boundary, will keep Mexico free from harm in that quarter.